

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-16, and 18 are pending in the application. Claims 5 and 17 are cancelled herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 8 and 14-16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arakawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,176,321) in view of Dochterman (U.S. Pat. No. 3,997,805). This rejection is moot.

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim (i.e., independent Claim 1). This has been accomplished by amending independent Claim 1 to include the language of dependent Claim 5. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 and the claims which depend, directly or indirectly, therefrom (i.e., Claims 2-4, and 6-8) are now in condition for allowance.

Similarly, the Examiner has indicated that Claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim (i.e., Claim 14). This has been accomplished by amending independent Claim 14 to include the language of dependent Claim 17. Accordingly, Claim 14 and the claims which depend, directly or indirectly, therefrom (i.e., Claims 15, 16, and 18) are now in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 9-13 are indicated as being allowed. In addition, the Examiner states that Claims 5, 6 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As indicated above, independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the language of dependent Claim 5 and independent Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the language of Claim 17. Accordingly, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 20, 2006

By: 
Michael E. Hilton, 33,509

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MEH/cs